

(b) The carrier must furnish the certificate or limited permit authorizing interstate movement of a regulated article to the consignee at the shipment's destination.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 0579-0088)

[57 FR 57327, Dec. 4, 1992, as amended at 59 FR 67133, Dec. 29, 1994]

§ 301.81-10 Costs and charges.

The services of the inspector during normal business hours will be furnished without cost to persons requiring the services. The United States Department of Agriculture will not be responsible for any other costs or charges.

§ 301.81-11 Imported fire ant detection, control, exclusion, and enforcement program for nurseries producing containerized plants.

This detection, control, exclusion, and enforcement program is designed to keep nurseries free of the imported fire ant and provides a basis to certify containerized nursery stock for interstate movement. Participating regulated establishments must be operating under a compliance agreement in accordance with § 301.81-6. Such compliance agreements shall state the specific requirements that a shipper agrees to follow to move plants in accordance with the requirements of the program. Certificates and a nursery identification number may be issued to the nursery for use on shipments of regulated articles.

(a) *Detection.* (1) Nursery owners are required to visually survey their entire premises twice monthly for the presence of imported fire ants.

(2) Nurseries participating in this program will be inspected by Federal or State inspectors at least twice per year. More frequent inspections may be necessary depending upon imported fire ant infestation levels immediately surrounding the nursery, the thoroughness of nursery management in maintaining imported-fire-ant-free premises, and the number of previous detections of imported fire ants in or near containerized plants. Inspections by Federal and State inspectors should be more frequent just before and during the peak shipping season. Any nurseries determined during nursery in-

spections to have imported fire ant colonies must be immediately treated to the extent necessary to eliminate the colonies.

(b) *Control.* Nursery plants that are shipped under this program must originate in a nursery that meets the requirements of this section. Nursery owners must implement a treatment program with registered bait and contact insecticides. The premises, including growing and holding areas, must be maintained free of the imported fire ant. As part of this treatment program, all exposed soil surfaces (including sod and mulched areas) on property where plants are grown, potted, stored, handled, loaded, unloaded, or sold must be treated in accordance with part 305 of this chapter at least once every 6 months. The first application must be performed early in the spring. Followup treatments with a contact insecticide in accordance with part 305 of this chapter must be applied to eliminate all remaining colonies.

(c) *Exclusion.* (1) For plants grown on the premises, treatment of soil or potting media in accordance with part 305 of this chapter prior to planting is required.

(2) For plants received from outside sources, to prevent the spread into a nursery free of the imported fire ant by newly introduced, infested nursery plants, all plants must be:

(i) Obtained from nurseries that comply with the requirements of this section and that operate under a compliance agreement in accordance with § 301.81-6; or

(ii) Treated upon delivery in accordance with part 305 of this chapter, and within the specified number of days be either:

(A) Repotted in treated potting soil media;

(B) Retreated in accordance with part 305 of this chapter at the specified interval; or

(C) Shipped.

(d) *Enforcement.* (1) The nursery owner must maintain records of the nursery's surveys and treatments for the imported fire ant. These records must be made available to State and Federal inspectors upon request.

(2) If imported fire ants are detected in nursery stock during an inspection